

U3A MANAWATŪ NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF U3A MANAWATŪ

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

At the time of going to print, we would like to welcome the following new members:

Jutta Tebje-Kelly, Jan Brooks, David Turnbull, James Watson, Norma and Peter Hansen, Pieter de Jonge and Michelle Guy



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Autumn seminar series

by Chris Phillips

The autumn seminar series took place at Crossroads Church on four Wednesdays in May. The theme - 'Ethics: is there a right and wrong?' - came from Margaret Hazelton. The series was coordinated by Stuart Birks, and was well received. Attendances were excellent throughout.

The series was opened by Dr Brian Finch, former Director of Ethics at Massey University. The development of research ethics and the current processes were explained and the challenges in the area explored. Specifically, he addressed the question of how society ensures that the quest for new knowledge is conducted responsibly and ethically, and how researchers can be supported to apply standards of ethics. It is important that research does not cause unintended harm to participants, and that participants are provided with feedback.

Religions typically claim to offer instruction on how people should conduct their lives. In the second seminar, Dr Chris van der Krogt from the School of Humanities at Massey postulated that, in practice, the faithful have had to supplement religious revelation with moral reasoning of their own, both to fill gaps in the revelation, and to explain away moral perspectives that no longer seem acceptable. His talk was based around six propositions relating to religious traditions and religious communities, which touched on a range of issues.

Dr Bethan Greener, Associate Professor in the Politics Programme at Massey, then looked at the

recent scandals, that have arisen in UN peacekeeping, with failure to protect populations and accusations of abuses. This has challenged the UN ideal of 'neutrality' and 'impartiality', and has risked the chance of mission success. Bethan outlined some of the challenges in UN peacekeeping, and looked at recent initiatives to improve UN peacekeeping practices. The make-up of peacekeeping forces, especially in regard to the gender mix, is significant.

To finish the series, Dr Geoffrey Kira, School of Health Sciences at Massey, spoke about ethics in health from a Maori 'worldview' perspective. Our health system is such that the health professional has authority over the patient or client. Therefore, it is incumbent on the health professional to behave ethically. In NZ, there are professional codes of conduct and there is the NZ Health and Disabilities Act. Maori Tikanga provides guidelines for how people should live, and could be applied more widely in the health system.

U3A Chairperson Graham Slater presented Margaret Hazelton with flowers in appreciation of her outstanding contribution to the seminar series over the past 7 years. Margaret is leaving Palmerston North in September to live in Dunedin.

SPRING SEMINAR SERIES: "Misinformation and Fake News"

Wednesdays 2.15 - 4 pm
23rd and 30th October and 6th and 13th November
Crossroads Church, 220 Church Street, PN

You will receive a flyer with more details several weeks prior.
Details will also be available on the [website](#).



FROM THE CHAIR

Graham Slater

Our current, paid-up membership stands at 315. Many of our Learning Groups are at capacity; some have waiting lists. However, there are some groups still open. Ideas from members who are considering setting up new groups are always welcome. If you have an idea for a group let me know.

Thanks to continuing support from the Eastern and Central Community Trust, we are again able to provide two free seminar series both for U3A members and the general public.

The spring series, focusing on ethical issues attracted audiences of between 80 and 100. We are indebted to Stuart Birks for his creativity and organizational skills which provided us with informative, stimulating, and sometimes challenging seminars. Stuart picked up the baton from Margaret Hazelton, whom we farewelled from U3A Manawatū after 12 years, at the conclusion of the series.

Our next seminar series to be held in October and November is shaping up to be very interesting and topical. The title will be 'Misinformation and Fake News'.

I would like to acknowledge the passing of Dell Panny, a stalwart of the movement for many years.

U3A Manawatū will turn 20 in 2020. Carol Phillips has volunteered to produce a history of that time. We are looking to have an event of some sort to mark the milestone, suggestions welcome.

Remember the AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th September. Please try to attend.

OLDER PERSON ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

To support our application for this PN-based award we would really appreciate your sharing with us what difference U3A Manawatū has made to your life. Please contact Cherry Gordon at cgordon3450@gmail.com or phone 560 0232 as soon as possible or by 7th August at the latest.

NOTICE of AGM (U3A Manawatū)

The 2019 AGM will be held at 2 pm on Wednesday 18th September at the Quaker Meeting House, 227 College Street

Speaker: Carol Phillips on 60 years of prisoner aid work in Manawatū.

Carol has recently had a book published 'Inside and Outside' on the history of Manawatū PARS (Prisoner's Aid and Rehabilitation Society of Manawatū)

BLUES

by Judy Gunn

*further away in the distance
above the hydrangeas
between white puffs
crystal blue*

*that ruffled dress
the night you proposed
a picture a kiss
beginning life's pen*

*beginning life's pen
a picture a kiss
the night you proposed
that ruffled dress*

*crystal blue
between white puffs
above the hydrangeas
further away in the distance*

This is a 'specular' poem in which the second half of the poem mirrors the first, using the same lines but in reverse order.

Judy is a member of the Poetry for Pleasure and Creative Writing groups.

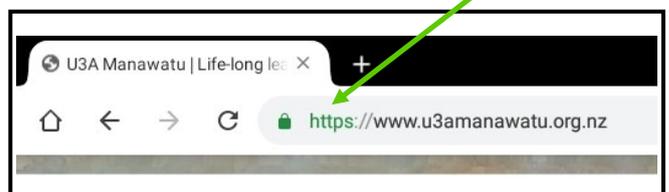
U3A MANAWATŪ WEBSITE SECURITY UPGRADE

by Chris Phillips

Our website at www.u3amanawatu.org.nz has been moved from HTTP to HTTPS, which means that connections from the local Inspire Net server (which hosts the website) to your browser are now secure. As always, Inspire Net provided excellent support in making this change.

HTTPS (or Secure HTTP) is an encryption method which means that data being transferred is safeguarded from a hacker trying to eavesdrop on the connection. The only visible difference is the display of a small padlock symbol in the browser address bar (take a look!).

Browsers such as Chrome and Safari are now marking HTTP-based websites, which don't have this protection, as 'Not Secure'. You may have noticed this. As far as we can ascertain, U3A Manawatū is the first NZ U3A website to offer this protection. On the other hand, commercial websites, with encouragement from the likes of Google, are rapidly moving to HTTPS in order to protect their data.



AROUND THE GROUPS...

CREATIVE WRITING

by Jill Gibson

At the end of every year, members submit topic suggestions for each month of the following year.

We are continually surprised at the different ways people approach the given subject. There are no rules. The subject can be written in any form.

Marga's Doggerel (below right) was the result of a title 'It bugs me!'

'Think of a word and write about it' produced a delightful piece 'Cabbages' about Winstone, the white butterfly, setting about to outsmart humans to get at the cabbages.

In May we studied an old sepia photo of an unknown wedding party, noting body language, relationships, clothing and setting for the photo. The subject was 'What happened next?' Some lovely pieces resulted from this.

'If you were suddenly Prime Minister what would you do?' produced a lot of humour. The immediate agenda for one, was to tackle Sanitarium, toilet rolls and gangs, while another wrote a letter to inform that, under her governance, work would be optional, food (in cooked form) would be provided by the government, and from now on we would all live together in close harmony in group housing. Robots would be assigned all vacuuming and grass mowing. From another member there was a report in the Evening Standard dated April 1st 2060 headed

'Former Prime Minister Retires from Public Life'. It extolled the virtues of Dame Sarah and the introduction of her legislation to ban all Christmas presents for anyone over twelve and the banning of the word Christmas from all advertising. Another member's piece was: 'If I woke up and found I was PM I'd go back to sleep thinking it was some awful dream! If on waking again this delusion persisted I would phone my doctor. He is a sane man and a good Dr and I'm sure he could give me something to bring my mind back to balance!'

DOGGEREL

*It bugs me silly when doors won't close,
Jars won't open, a runny nose,*

*Websites which dawdle when I'm in a hurry,
Keys not turning put me in a flurry.*

*My phone shutting down when I'm taking a call,
A shopping centre being known as a mall,*

*Ads on the telly interrupting a film,
Not finding a rhyme to complete this couplet.*

*My fancy sewing? Uneven stitches.
All first world problems, minor hitches,*

*Just take a slow breath, remember gratitude,
Many things can be solved with the right attitude.*

*So most of all (you may agree)
It bugs me that these things bug me!*

© Marga Nicholas, June 2019

WRITE YOUR MEMOIRS 2

A second *Write Your Memoirs* is being formed, under the working title of *Write Our Memoirs Too*. Group coordinator Arne Evans says the present four

members have settled on a venue — his home in Awapuni — but are still working out the best meeting time. They would welcome another four or five members. If you're interested, please contact Arne on 353 0585 or arnevans@xtra.co.nz.



Stu Schwartz cutting the cake

(Photo: Brian Finch)

END OF AN ERA

by Chris Phillips

On Tuesday 2nd June, the Art Appreciation Group 1 met for the last time at the Taylor-Jensen Art Gallery in George Street. The group was first convened in the gallery by Rolf Panny in 2001!

To mark the occasion, group members presented Stu Schwartz, Gallery Director, with a book, and a cake was cut (see photograph). Over recent years, Stu has played an increasingly active role in the group. The gallery has been a marvellous venue for the group over 19 years, and will be missed.

Contributions to this quarterly newsletter are very welcome!
Please contact the Editor
(Rosemary at 326 9598 or rksrinich@gmail.com)

AROUND THE GROUPS... (cont)

FRENCH FILMS

by Roger Parfitt

The group meets most Mondays for an hour to watch films and brush up our high school French. We watch a scene with French subtitles then go over it more slowly so it can take us 4 weeks to see a movie. The movies tend to be light comedies. At the moment we are watching 'Le Grand Bain' where a group of rather dysfunctional men are learning synchronised swimming!! On our list for this year are 'Intouchables', 'La fille de puisatier', and 'Le fils à Jo' which is about a struggling French rugby club and includes the involvement of a real All Black!

GROUP COORDINATORS' MID-YEAR FUNCTION

by Rosemary Krsinich

Group Coordinators and Committee members met on a very cold but beautiful day in June. These bi-annual meetings provide the opportunity to share experiences, raise any issues for discussion and thank the Group Coordinators for the huge amount of work they do for the U3A!

Some matters discussed are touched on elsewhere in this newsletter. Other discussion included:

- Currently members have the option of paying their subscriptions via group coordinators, but this can result in delays. Members are encouraged to pay online or by mail.
- The proportion of members requesting material to

be posted to them, rather than emailed, has dropped to about 25%.

- Our website typically has about 3,400 hits a month, of which about 1,600 are unique visits.

- Feedback from the seminar speakers (mostly university lecturers) is that we are a 'joy' to talk to: we are 'engaged, not asleep and not on our cell phones'!

- Graham Slater has reached out to the Whanganui U3A re joint activities of some sort. Meanwhile they invited two of our speakers to repeat their seminars in Whanganui.

- How do we keep involved those people who can't get to meetings? Graham Slater has given four well attended talks at Metlife. The Memoirs group is talking about visiting rest homes, with the possible involvement of the Recording and Broadcasting group. If we let rest homes know about the seminars they could transport interested residents to them.

- There was discussion about the value of social involvement and its feasibility, outside the groups, in an organization of over 300 members.

- It was suggested 'open' groups (those with no limit on members) post a list of future topics on the website notice board.



TWENTY YEARS OF U3A MANAWATŪ

Next year it will be twenty years since U3A Manawatū came into being. To celebrate its twentieth anniversary, Carol Phillips is putting together a history of the first twenty years. If you have any archival material, including photographs, which you would like to share - about U3A Manawatū's beginnings, learning groups, seminars, social occasions, or anything else of interest - please contact Carol on 358 1991 or email carolphillips@inspire.net.nz

U3A MANAWATŪ CONTACT DETAILS

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Committee

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Treasurer: Ron Paddock 357 5857 smallfield48@gmail.com

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Other contributors

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